



Region 1 Weekly Highlights | December 10, 2021

AIR DIVISION Executive Highlights

Section 1: Items for the Administrator's action, decision and/or signing over the next two weeks in chronological order.

- **DATE(TBD) TEXT (R1 POC: Division Director (DD) Contact)**
- **DATE(TBD) TEXT (R1 POC: DD Contact)**

Section 2: Items that the Assistant Administrator, Regional Administrator or Associate Administrator signed over the last week and/or plan on signing over the next two weeks in chronological order.

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Section 3: Hot Topics

- **Major policy, regulatory, compliance, or enforcement activities**
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- **Major events, emergencies/incidents, or meetings**
 - On Dec 7, Alison Simcox, Rini Maiti, and Mike Stover hosted the second annual NE Wood Smoke Summit to highlight regional activities to reduce wood smoke, the region's largest source of fine-particle pollution, and to encourage collaboration between states, tribes, and EPA R1. The summit, which had 67 attendees, included speakers from the NE federally recognized tribes, NESCAUM, VT DEC, NH DES, Keene State College, R1's GIS center and regional laboratory, and EPA HQs. Topics included tribal wood-smoke issues, state projects using air-quality sensors and moisture meters, EPA's wood-heater certification process, upcoming revisions to the PM_{2.5} NAAQS, multi-regional expansion of R1's Valley Id tool, and EPA's new wood-smoke Resource Library.
 - On Dec 6, ARD and OAQPS held a call with representatives from the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, Penobscot Nation, Houlton Band of the Maliseet Indians, and Passamaquoddy Tribe to discuss the Maine 176A petition to remove part of Maine from the Ozone Transport Region. The call provided information on the petition and fielded questions from the tribes. The call was successful in addressing tribal concerns. The notice of final rulemaking approving the Maine Opt-out will be routed for concurrence in Jan.
 - On Dec 6, the public comment period ended on the revised draft outer continental shelf (OCS) air permit for the South Fork Windfarm. On Oct 20, R1 reopened the public comment period for an additional 47 days to request comment on a revision to the draft permit that removes the requirement to obtain emission offsets for construction emissions. R1 did not receive any verbal comments during the virtual public hearing on Dec 2. R1 received three sets of comments during the second public comment period that were generally supportive of the revised permit. R1 intends to issue a final permit in Jan 2021.
 - On Dec 13, R1 met with Vineyard Wind, LLC to discuss outer continental shelf (OCS) air permitting for future windfarm projects. The agenda included a discussion of a potential permit modification to the Vineyard Wind 1 permit issued in May 2021, as well as permitting for the upcoming NE Wind projects (formerly known as Vineyard Wind – South). The NE Wind projects consist of the Park City Windfarm and the Commonwealth Windfarm, which will provide an additional capacity of 1,600 – 2,000 MW of electricity from the OCS lease area southeast of Martha's Vineyard.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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- **Revolution Wind Notice of Intent**

Section 4: Miscellaneous

- **Major concerns/challenges (e.g., an impasse with customers/partners/stakeholders)**
 - On Dec 14, the Air Permits Team completed its review of the CAA title V permit review for Pittsfield Generating Station in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. The 120 MW natural gas- and oil-fired power plant has been the subject of environmental justice concerns in the city of Pittsfield.
 - On Dec 14, Madeline Isenberg, Eugene Benoit, and Patrick Bird participated in a New England State Asthma Partners meeting with state asthma coordinators to discuss air quality monitoring in the region, how low-cost sensors are being used by state air agencies, and opportunities for monitoring grants as part of the American Rescue Plan. LSASD provided support in developing the slides for EPA's presentation.

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For RA/DRA only (optional)

Air Quality Branch

New England Wood Smoke Summit

On Dec 7, Alison Simcox, Rini Maiti, and Mike Stover hosted the second annual NE Wood Smoke Summit to highlight regional activities to reduce wood smoke, the region's largest source of fine-particle pollution, and to encourage collaboration between states, tribes, and EPA R1. The summit, which had 67 attendees, included speakers from the NE federally recognized tribes, NESCAUM, VT DEC, NH DES, Keene State College, R1's GIS center and regional laboratory, and EPA HQs. Topics included tribal wood-smoke issues, state projects using air-quality sensors and moisture meters, EPA's wood-heater certification process, upcoming revisions to the PM_{2.5} NAAQS, multi-regional expansion of R1's Valley Id tool, and EPA's new wood-smoke Resource Library.

Maine Ozone Transport Region Opt-out Information Session for Tribes

On Dec 6, ARD and OAQPS held a call with representatives from the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, Penobscot Nation, Houlton Band of the Maliseet Indians, and Passamaquoddy Tribe to discuss the Maine 176A petition to remove part of Maine from the Ozone Transport Region. The call provided information on the petition and fielded questions from the tribes. The call was successful in addressing tribal concerns. The notice of final rulemaking approving the Maine Opt-out will be routed for concurrence in Jan.

Air Permits Toxics and Indoor Programs Branch

Public Comment Period Ends on Revised Draft OCS Air Permit for South Fork Windfarm

On Dec 6, the public comment period ended on the revised draft outer continental shelf (OCS) air permit for the South Fork Windfarm. On Oct 20, R1 reopened the public comment period for an additional 47 days to request comment on a revision to the draft permit that removes the requirement to obtain emission offsets for construction emissions. R1 did not receive any verbal comments during the virtual public hearing on Dec 2. R1 received three sets of comments during the second public comment period that were generally supportive of the revised permit. R1 intends to issue a final permit in Jan 2021.

Vineyard Wind Requests Meeting to Discuss Upcoming Offshore Wind Projects

On Dec 13, R1 met with Vineyard Wind, LLC to discuss outer continental shelf (OCS) air permitting for future windfarm projects. The agenda included a discussion of a potential permit modification to the Vineyard Wind 1 permit issued in May 2021, as well as permitting for the upcoming NE Wind projects (formerly known as Vineyard Wind – South). The NE Wind projects consist of the Park City Windfarm and the Commonwealth Windfarm, which will provide an additional capacity of 1,600 – 2,000 MW of electricity from the OCS lease area southeast of Martha’s Vineyard. During the meeting, R1 relayed its determination to Vineyard Wind that the Vineyard Wind 1, Park City Wind, and Commonwealth Wind windfarms comprise a single stationary source for air permitting purposes.

Title V Permit Renewal for Pittsfield Generating

On Dec 14, the Air Permits Team completed its review of the CAA title V permit review for Pittsfield Generating Station in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. The 120 MW natural gas- and oil-fired power plant has been the subject of environmental justice concerns in the city of Pittsfield.

New England State Asthma Partners Meeting

On Dec 14, Madeline Isenberg, Eugene Benoit, and Patrick Bird participated in a New England State Asthma Partners meeting with state asthma coordinators to discuss air quality monitoring in the region, how low-cost sensors are being used by state air agencies, and opportunities for monitoring grants as part of the American Rescue Plan. LSASD provided support in developing the slides for EPA’s presentation.

Grants and Program Support Branch

Social Media (twitter, Facebook, blog) Submissions

Format Sample for Optional Social Media Submissions

SAMPLE Drinking Water – Merrimack Winner!

(Photo File: DrinkingWaterContest.jpg) Reference the Photo File and attach photo our

OneDrive’s “[HYPERLINK "https://usepa-

my.sharepoint.com/personal/wintrob_paul_epa_gov/Documents/Forms/All.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fpersonal%2Fwintrob%5Fpaul%5Fepa%5Fgov%2FDocuments%2FOEP%20Weekly%20Reporting%2FSocial%20Media%20Photo%20Attachments%20Folder&FolderCTID=0x01200018BF

3C6754A50A45AF086DDA8175DB0E&View=%7B1C72E3FB%2D745C%2D48C4%2D92A0%2DD3764EE9BB8F%7D" \t "_blank"]"

Congratulations to Merrimack Village Water District voted tastiest water in NH at the Granite State Rural Water Association Conference recently held in Sunapee NH. Jane Downing of EPA was one of the Water Taste Test judges.

Hyperlink Text: Tell your neighbors, friends and loved ones to Test, Fix and prevent a lung cancer.

Link: [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/radon" \t "_blank"]